

PRESS BRIEFING PAPER

April 9, 1976

GENERAL BARZANI'S GIFTS TO THE SECRETARY

Q: Did you know about these gifts when they were received?

A: I was aware of the rug but never dealt with it personally. I never heard of the necklace until its existence was brought to my attention recently.

Q: Has there been an attempt to cover up their existence?

A: Absolutely not. I am advised that these gifts are Government property and have always been treated as such. When the items were first received, there was a need for discretion in formal registration because of their source. When this requirement no longer existed, the items were registered in the normal way for all gifts to Federal officials. They were turned over to the Office of Protocol.

Q: Where are the items now?

A: I am informed that the necklace has been disposed of by the GSA according to regulations and that the rug, which is Federal property, is in official use in an office at the White House.

Drafted by:
S/PRS - Frederick Brown